



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

LAWS OF A FOREIGN STATE—PROOF OF SAME.—By statute in Virginia, whenever it becomes necessary to ascertain what the law, *statutory or otherwise*, of another State or country, or of the United States, was at any time, the court, judge, or other judicial officer or tribunal, is required to take judicial notice of the same.¹

The words "statutory or otherwise" clearly show that it was the intent of the legislature that courts should take judicial notice of both the common law and "decision law" as well as the statutory law of a foreign State or country. This is a very radical change from the previously existing state of the law in Virginia, and the wisdom of such a statute may well be questioned by the members of the bar, in view of the great difficulty which might arise in ascertaining the course of decisions and the common law of other States.

EVIDENCE—PRIOR CONVICTION OF ACCUSED.—In felony cases in Virginia, the subject of prior conviction may no longer be made a matter of inquiry on the trial of the principal offense. Section 5054 of the Code of 1919, by providing that the superintendent of the penitentiary, after conviction of the accused and his confinement therein, shall give information of prior conviction to the Circuit Court of the City of Richmond, and that all proceedings for increase of sentence because of such prior conviction must be had therein, has effectually barred inquiry as to such prior conviction at the trial. This is much to be commended, as the fact of a prior conviction of a felony necessarily influenced the verdicts of juries in criminal cases.

RIGHT OF GOVERNOR TO SURRENDER FUGITIVE ON REQUEST OF A FOREIGN POWER—VIRGINIA CODE, 1919, § 5060.—In Virginia it is enacted that the Governor, while not thereto required, may in his discretion surrender a person charged with a crime committed in a foreign country, upon the requisition of the duly authorized agents of such country.¹

Apparently this section attempts to confer on the executive head of the State a power which pertains to the foreign relations of the United States. Such power was undoubtedly conferred on the federal government by the Constitution of the United States as a part of the treaty-making power, the power of appointing and receiving ambassadors and other public ministers, etc. This power is conferred on the President by Article II, Sec. 2, of the aforementioned Constitution, and the power of decid-

¹ Acts, 1918, c. 182, p. 315.

¹ Va. Code, § 5060.